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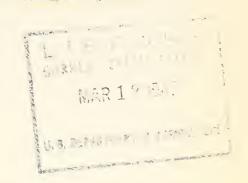
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION SERVICE

150 Broadway
New York, 7, New York

YOUR FAMILY'S FOOD

For the week of February 3, 1947

(Topics of the Week:
School Lunch
Revised Fotato Goals
No Fereign Customers for
Surplus Spuds
February Plentifuls
Weekly Plentifuls



ANNOUNCER:	YOUR FAMILY'S FCODa public service breadcast on the factors
	affecting your daily food supply, and brought to you by
	Station in cooperation with the United States De-
	partment of Agriculture. Cur studie guest today is
	, representing the Production & Marketing Administra-
	tion office in But why the furrowed brow,?
PMA:	.o.Ch, good (morning) (afternoon) I was just con-
	centrating on a school problem. Let's see now.two million,
	three bundred
ANNOUNCER:	Wait a minute, now. Who are you kidding? I'll bet you haven't
	been to school for correll, for-
PMA:	Careful
ANN OUNCER:	Well, for a few years anyway. So come on, break down. What's

all the figuring and head-scratching about?

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PMA:

Really, it's a school problem. If two and a half million youngsters eat lunch in schools using three and a half million pounds of potatoes, how many — ...?

ANNOUNCER:

Enough: Stop right there. What is this all about? What two and a half million youngsters...which potatoes?

PMA:

I'm just trying to organize a few figures on school lunch in the Northeast. You know, it's just about the middle of the school year, so I thought you might like to know how things are going in this first year of the National School Lunch Act.

ANNOUNCER:

Sure I would. The National School Lunch Act, if I remember, was passed by the last Congress and puts school lunches on a permanent basis.

PMA:

You remember well. Yes, Congress appropriated funds to assist the States in setting up school lunch programs. Much of the responsibility rests with the individual States, and the program is administered locally.

ANNCUNCER:

And how is it going?

PMA:

Fine. As you know, all 48 States signed the cooperative agreements, and reports covering the first three months of the school term reveal that more children are benefiting and more schools are participating than during the same months last year. Furthermore, a larger number of scholls are now serving the complete --- or type A --- lunches.

ANNOUNCER:

I suppose that's because of the permanence of the program.

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FMA:

Yes...but also, this is the first year that Federal funds have been earmarked for kitchen equipment. Some schools expanded their operations, whereas previously they had served only milk, sandwiches, and one hot dish because of limited kitchen facilities.

ANNOUNCER:

You spoke a minute ago of having some figures from this section of the country.

PMA:

Yes...they're for the 12 Northeastern States. In addition, to the six New England States, this region includes New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware.

ANNOUNCER:

I see. Well, that should give a good indication, since it includes most of the heavily populated States in the country.

FMA:

A total of two and half million children participated in school lunches in those twelve states during the first three months of the school term. That includes some 135—thousand in private schools.

ANNOUNCER:

Imagine trying to feed two and half million hungry kids. That must take enough food to — well, to feed two and e half million hungry children.

PMA:

That's the amount, all right. You see, in addition to fool purchased locally with State and Federal funds, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is authorized to distribute to schools some of the food purchased under price support programs.

ANNOUNCER:

That's a good idea...helps things at both ends of the food line.

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PMA:

Yes, it enables the Department of Agriculture to achieve a dual objective. On the one hand, returns to farmers are supported in accordance with the law...while on the other, the National Nutrition Program is advanced.

ANNOUNCER:

Do you have any figures on foods used in school lunches?

PMA:

Well, in this 12-State region we've been talking about, more than three and half million pounds of petatoes were distributed to schools along with about 280-thousand pounds of onions. I mention those because they're especially abundant foods.

ANN JUNCER:

As I understand it, such surplus foods don't interfere with the local purchases.

PMA:

That's right. No part of the school lunch appropriation was spent for these foods. Now another part of the picture is the authorized use of school lunch funds by the Department of Agriculture for direct purchase.

ANN OUN CER:

How does that work?

PMA:

In effect, the Department acts as purchasing agent on a National scale. For example, so far this term, purchases have included tomato juice, concentrated orange juice, and peach jam for distribution in all States. Dried milk has been distributed in milk deficit areas...and some canned vegetables originally purchased by the Army were distributed in the areas where held.

ANNOUNCER:

Certainly this school lunch program is big business. and good business.

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PMA!

Well, the fact that Congress saw fit to appropriate 75-million dellars for the current school year, and that 48 States' as well as territories and possessions agreed to cooperate testify to the value of lunches for school children.

ANN OUNCER:

Say, you mentioned potatoes back there a bit...what's this I see about revised potato goals?

PMA:

Simply that USDA announced a downward revision the other day,

Let's see...I believe the new 1947 production goal is about

152-thousand acres lower than the one originally announced.

ANNOUNCER:

Is the reduction a result of the surplus of potatoes from the '46 crop?

PMA:

No...the earlier goal had taken that into consideration and aimed at a total of 375 million bushels for next year...a reduction of about 100-million bushels from this year's huge crop. The new goal still aims at 375-million bushels. The change in acreage was made because new data on potate production shows that yields per acre have been increasing at a rapid rate in recent years.

ANNEUNCER:

Yes, I recall that one reason for the current potato surplus was the fact that yields far exceeded expectations.

PMA:

That's right. So...based on our latest crop figures...we've decided that the same amount of petatoes can be grown on fewer acres. Of course, better cultural practices, more efficient use of irrigation and fertilizers, and newly developed insecticides are the main reasons. Another important reason is

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PMA: (continued)

the constant trend toward the concentration of potato growing in the higher-producing areas.

ANNOUNCER:

Coming back to this year...a lot of people have been wondering why we don't just send all our surplus potatoes to feed hungry nations abroad. Can you tell us something about that...why potatoes are going to waste in America while people go hungry in other countries?

PMA:

That's a frequent question...and the whole answer is: High Costs.

Plus the fact that in many countries the only food they already

have snough of is potatoes.

ANNOUNCER:

Yes...but there must be some countries where potatoes would be welcome. After all, they are a pretty good food. And as I understand it, the potato price support program, under the Steagall amendment, has already cost in the neighborhood of 80 million dollars...so why not go ahead and ship the spuds overseas?

PMA:

Well, I'm going to quote from Secretary of Agriculture Anderson's annual report, which was released just recently. He points out that fresh potatoes are difficult to ship long distances, and especially by sea...they often arrives spoiled.

ANNOUNCER:

How about canning, or dehydration ...?

PMA:

Both those processes are expensive. In the case of canning, shipping expenses would be high, in addition to the production costs. And while shipping costs of dehydrated potatoes would be cheap, the Secretary declares that their lack of appeal makes them impractical for extensive relief feeding.

The transfer of the same of th

ANNOUNCER:

I guess I see his point. Even if we were willing to invest more funds in preparing these potatoes for export, it would be a case of throwing good money after bad, since not many countries would want them anyway.

PMA:

At least, no one wants them bad enough to pay very much for them.

As a matter of fact, the Department of Agriculture has a standing

offer that any nation can have potatoes for carting them off.

ANNOUNCER:

No takers, eh?

PMA:

None to speak of. Some potatoes are being shipped to Italy.

But as long as we have large stocks of grains...which are highly concentrated, easily handled foods...themarket for potatoes...

expensive and difficult to handle in international trade... wir.

be very limited...at any price.

ANNOUNCER:

All of which brings us back to reality and the potato surplus.

I guess we can only urge folks to use potatoes whenever and wherever possible.

PMA:

And that leaves a limitless horizon of possibilities... Cf course, it goes without saying that spuds will be plentiful throughout February.

ANN OUNCER:

And I suppose come March, April, May, etc.

PMA:

I think you've got your crystal ball on rather long focus.

Suppose we just stick to one month shead.

ANNOUNCER:

All right. Let's concentrate on February. That's the month that food supplies are usually at the low point. What else

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ANNOUNCER: (continued)

do you think will keep spuds company on the February plentiful lists?

PMA:

A number of items that have been appearing in our recent weekly lists will continue for at least a month ahead. Onions and celery will be in there pitching during February. The fresh citrus fruits, especially oranges and grapefruit, and some tangerines will be in bountiful quantities, as will the canned citrus juices.

ANN OUN CER:

May we expect any new items next month?

PMA:

Yes, ____ Canned grapefruit sections are mening a comeback to civilian channels.

ANNOUNCER:

When you start talking in terms of civilians, I take it to mean that our armed forces were getting the lion's share before.

PMA:

That's right. During the war the entire pack of canned grapefruit segments was bought by the Army and the Navy. Last year the military stopped buying. As a result, about two and a half million cases did find their way back to grocers' shelves.

ANNOUNCER:

That sounds like a lot of canned grapefruit to me.

PMA:

Well you can be sure there'll be much more this year. So far this year over 2 million cases have already been processed.

I might add that the canning season still has about four months to go.

ANNOUNCER:

Now I am beginning to get into the spirit of this bounty. May we expect any other fruits in good supply?

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PMA:

Dried peaches are also at the top of the list. In fact, they're the most plentiful of the dried fruits now on the market. And they're generally low in price. Peanut butter is another item that's going to be abundant next month. Incidentally, did you know that more than half of the peanuts used for food go into peanut butter?

ANNOUNCER:

I'll have to confess that I didn't. But there's no doubt about my liking for peanut butter. I'm nuts about it.

PM:

If you're a nut fancier, you'll be happy to hear that almonds and filberts will continue in good supply.

ANNOUNCER:

What with potatoes, onions, celery, and citrus and dried fruits

I'd say we have the foundation for a pretty fine meal. But

what about the meat department?

PMA:

I can't think of anything better than a fine roast turkey.

Homemakers will find a very good supply of heavy tom turkeys in

February. If they feel they must have cause for celebration when
they serve turkey, Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays are coming
along.

ANNOUNCER:

A very good idea, _____

PMA:

Before we get too far off the poultry path, I'd like to get in a word about eggs...they'll be in good supply next month, too.

ANNOUNCER:

It seems to me that this February will be a month of good eating, but what's in the line-up for the current week?

PMA:

Of course, since this is February...all the foods we've been talking about are currently plentiful. Apples are on the list this week, too, and as a matter of fact I should have mentioned them earlier, because they'll be in good supply throughout the month.

ANNOUNCER:

Isn't there anything limited to just this week?

PMA:

Probably not. But there are ups and downs in the supply of some foods, making a long-range prediction sort of dangerous. For example, this week reports show that there are lots of greens on the markets. Some places you'll find spinach, other places kale, and in some areas escarole is plentiful. Then cabbage is in good supply at all markets, along with carrots, parsnips, and turnips.

ANNOUNCER:

Did you say something about February being the month of traditionally short supplies? Seems as if we've got more food than for some time.

PMA:

The plentiful foods list is pretty full, isn°t it? And I just want to add sweet potatoes and winter squash.

ANN OUN CER:

Thanks very much	for all the interesting inf	ormation you've
given us,	Friends, our guest on	today's presentation
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